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adorning the walls, domes, minarets, palaces and sepulchres whose delicate and beautiful ornamentation are shown in the plates are rarely found in dwellings, as private persons could not afford to indulge in such luxuries. The tiles are principally used in mosques, madrasas [schools], and mausoleums. When art flourished it was employed first and foremost in the service of religion, in order to give the devotee the idea of something exalted far above every-day things. The descriptions of the tiling, faience, wood carvings, and other ornamentation illustrated in the plates are instructive and interesting; and the volume should help to attract attention to the art of this portion of inner Asia, whose ancient history and culture are still so little known.

*Handbook for East Africa, Uganda and Zanzibar, 1904. pp. 223.*  
*Printed at the Government Printing Press, Mombasa, British*  
*East Africa Protectorate, 1903.*

Like many handbooks relating to the newer parts of the world, this little volume is packed with information of interest to those who watch the progress of pioneer development. It sketches the history of the East Africa and Uganda Protectorates; gives lists of all officers who are serving or have served there; tabulates commercial information; describes the ports; shows the progress during the previous year in the public works; gives the time of the arrival of trains, the fare, and the height above sea-level for all stations on the Uganda R.R. from Mombasa to Victoria Nyanza, and also prints the game laws and much other information. A very good idea may be obtained from such compilations of the progress that is being made in regions that are just coming within range of civilizing influences.

*Japan. Das Land der aufgehenden Sonne einst und jetzt. Nach seinen Reisen und Studien geschildert von Dr. Joseph Lauterer. vii. and 407 pp., 108 Illustrations, a Map, Bibliography and Index. Second Edition. Otto Spamer, Leipzig, 1904. (8.50 marks.)*

A popular book on Japan, but written on a different plan from that of travel-books. It is not filled with the impressions of a casual observer, but is the work of a practising physician, who has lived long in Japan and knows the language and the people. An historical section, occupying nearly half the book, is devoted largely to the influences and tendencies that have shaped Japanese civilization, to the exclusion of dry details relating to military campaigns

and changes of rulers. Much material for this part of the book was derived from native libraries. Then follow chapters on the physical and intellectual characteristics of the Japanese, their language, ways of living, food, clothing and shelter, art and industries, trade, farm crops, and methods of farming. The book concludes with several chapters on the geography, geology and climate, the flora and fauna, and characterizations of the chief cities. Many of the pictures are new photographs, and many others are from Japanese woodcuts. The book is filled with informing matter, and it would be hard to find a better compendium of facts relating to Japan.

*Rhodésie et Transvaal. Impressions de Voyage. By Albert Bordeaux. 284 pp., Illustrations and Map. E. Plon, Nourrit & Co. Paris, 1898.*

Sketches of the country and people, brightly written and readable. No attempt is made to treat the economic or other more serious aspects of these regions.

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## NOTES AND NEWS.

THE EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CONGRESS.—The Congress met in Washington on September 8–10, and its sessions and field meetings were continued in Philadelphia, September 12; in New York, September 13–15; Niagara Falls, September 16; Chicago, September 17; and St. Louis, September 19–22. As the business sessions and scientific meetings of the Congress were distributed among these various places, it was impossible to secure all the important data in time for this number of the BULLETIN. It has been decided, therefore, to defer the report of this very interesting meeting of the Congress in America until a later number of the BULLETIN, when its history may be adequately presented.

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Communications received in August from Mr. F. H. Nichols describe his progress to the 4th of June, when he reached Chamutong on the Lu-Kiang River (Salwin). He had been delayed in his journey westward by heavy snow in the mountains, but resumed his task early in May, and on the 7th arrived at the Lan t'sang River,